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DONOVAN HEART ATTACK AT 48

James B. Donovan, 48, president of the Board of Education, lawyer and sometime negotiator for the freedom of political and war prisoners, has been hospitalized with a heart condition, it was disclosed yesterday.

Mr. Donovan, who has been embroiled in the year-long civil-rights controversy involving the city's schools, suffered an attack of angina pectoris on Friday and was taken by ambulance to St. Luke's Hospital, Amsterdam Ave. and 113th St. Mr. Donovan's doctor is a member of that hospital's staff.

Sources close to him indicated yesterday that the attack could bring about a drastic reduction in Mr. Donovan's heavy schedule, starting with his secret cloak-and-dagger overseas missions.

Word of Mr. Donovan's attack came from Board of Education headquarters. The short statement noted that he was resting comfortably and responding to treatment and that the "prognosis is favorable after a period of rest. No visitors or telephone calls will be permitted.

Angina pectoris is heart pain from a temporary interruption or reduction in the amount of blood flowing through one of the two major arteries of the heart. It is usually treated as a possible coronary occlusion (closing of the artery) until definitive tests are completed, usually in two to three weeks.

The tests are designed to distinguish between a true blockage of the artery or a temporary spasm. If it is only a spasm, the heart recovers without injury. But if the heart muscle is damaged, rest and a curtailment of activity are prescribed.

In recent years, Mr. Donovan arranged for the release of Ray of Pigs and the exchange of U-2 pilot

Francis Gary Powers for Russian spy Rudolf Abel, whom he had defended in court.

If Mr. Donovan's physicians advise a sharp work cutback, he would likely have to give up the Board of Education presidency but be able to retain his partnership in the law firm of Watters & Donovan, 161 William St.

Mr. Donovan was elected board president in May to serve a one-year term. He had been acting president from December until May, after Max J. Rubin had resigned because of ill health.

Mr. Donovan admitted early this year that his wife, Mary, had "repeatedly" asked him to resign as board president, and that these were



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James B. Donovan

"the only requests" to which he had given consideration.

During the integration controversy this year, a number of civil-rights leaders have called for Mr. Donovan's resignation because of statements allegedly derogatory to Negroes. However, those demands have stopped in recent weeks.

If Mr. Donovan is forced to resign, Lloyd K. Garrison, the present vice-president, would become acting president. Sources indicated that Mr. Garrison also would be willing to serve as the elected president. Mr. Garrison has been a staunch supporter of the board's newly announced integration plan, and wants to see that it gets a chance to work.